

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 123

Recognizing the historical and national significance of the many contributions of John William Heisman to the sport of football.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. COLE, and Mr. GERLACH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical and national significance of the many contributions of John William Heisman to the sport of football.

Whereas, born in 1869, John W. Heisman was an early and influential developer of the game of football, one of America's most beloved sports;

Whereas Heisman learned the game of football playing for Titusville High School in the 1880s and began his long career as a player, coach, writer, and great innovator of the sport;

Whereas Heisman played college football for Brown University and the University of Pennsylvania;

Whereas his coaching career lasted from 1892–1927 and took Heisman to many institutions including: Oberlin College, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia Tech, Washington and Jefferson, Rice University, and his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania;

Whereas, after coaching, Heisman continued his involvement with the sport as a well-known author and publisher of sports periodicals;

Whereas, as head coach of Georgia Tech’s football club, his team saw an incredible 33 back-to-back wins, while going 37–4–2 in his final five years as coach;

Whereas Heisman coached Georgia Tech to an incredible 222–0 win over Tennessee’s Cumberland College, the highest scoring football game on record;

Whereas Heisman is credited with inventing the forward pass, which is widely considered to be his greatest contribution to the sport;

Whereas he introduced games consisting of four quarters, invented the center snap, and created plays that were precursors to the T and I formations;

Whereas, as director of the New York Downtown Athletic Club (DAC), Heisman and DAC established an annual award for the best college player in the Eastern U.S., which subsequently became national in scope in 1935;

Whereas the award was renamed the Heisman Memorial Trophy after he passed away in 1936; and

Whereas John Heisman was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1954: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

1 (1) recognizes the significance, the importance,
2 and many contributions John Heisman had on its
3 development of one of America's most beloved
4 sports—football;

5 (2) praises Heisman's efforts in helping to es-
6 tablish the most valuable player award for college
7 football, which eventually would be named for him;
8 and

9 (3) acknowledges Heisman's innovative and in-
10 fluential coaching techniques and strategies, as well
11 as his legendary leadership on and off of the football
12 field.

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